



JULY TIP SAVINGS: \$100-\$300/YR

Avoided Emissions of CO₂: Up to 100 lbs./YR

\$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

HARVEST MULTIPLE BENEFITS WITH RAINWATER COLLECTION

Free water boosts plant growth and reduces potential pollution

July is typically the start of our summer monsoon season. Here are our top five best reasons to take advantage of rainwater harvesting.

1. RAIN IS FREE

We average almost 8-inches of rain a year. And, with a typical Arizona desert home, we have rooftops, driveways and sidewalks that make prime catchment areas. In fact, the rooftop of a 1500 square-foot home can collect almost 500 gallons from ½-inch of rain!

A typical home rooftop can collect about 500 gallons of water from just ½-inch of rain. That's enough to flush a toilet 300 times.

2. IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR PLANTS

Rainwater is a clean, salt-free source of water that contains many beneficial ingredients for plants. Rain can contain sulfur, potash, several other minerals and even microorganisms, all of which provide a boost to plant growth. During summer thundershowers there can even be an added bonus when lightening converts atmospheric nitrogen into a nitrogen solution for plants.

3. YOU CAN HELP REPLENISH GROUNDWATER

Typically, rain falls and seeps underground to become groundwater in aquifers and/or it feeds rivers or lakes. However, the concrete, asphalt and land grading of cities have disrupted this cycle. It's now more important than ever to collect as much rainwater as we can in our landscapes whether at our homes properties, businesses or along our city streets.

4. IT WILL IMPROVE YOUR SOIL AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Rain is naturally distilled through evaporation prior to cloud formation making it one of the purest sources of water. This means that it's one of the best ways to dilute salt buildup that naturally occurs in our soils. This happens due to so little rainfall and because we add our 'hard' water to the landscape with each irrigation. It is recommended to run your irrigation an extra cycle or two in the summer to help wash excess salts past the root zone of plants where it can cause leaf burn and other plant problems. But, if we get a good monsoon and you are collecting rainwater on your landscape, these extra irrigations will not be necessary. And, there's one more benefit to mention. Any applied fertilizers, insect granules or weed spray stay on your property when you harvest rainwater, instead of running off where they can negatively impact our natural waterways.



5. GRAVITY IS ALWAYS THERE TO HELP

Start from your highest water catchment surfaces (i.e. rooftop) and allow gravity to carry the water through gutters or channels to where you want it to provide the greatest benefit. Water harvesting systems can range from simple to complex. Go outside during your next rainstorm (if there's no lightening) and observe how the water flows off your structures and property.

CHECKLIST FOR SAVINGS

- ☐ **Attend** our water harvesting series, *Hydrate Mesa*, from Aug. 1 thru Aug. 29 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Mesa Main Library. See page 2. The program is free! Register <http://www.watershedmg.org/hydrate>.
- ☐ **Visit** our water harvesting page at <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-serve/rainwater-harvesting>.

\$START \$AVING

Start saving on your water bill while doing your part for *building a sustainable community*. Visit our website for more sustainability savings tips at www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.

Learn to live Green

Hydrate Mesa Project Series



Watershed Management Group's popular *Hydrate* project series is coming to Mesa this August! *Hydrate Mesa* will teach you how to create a sustainable backyard oasis at your own home. Each presentation includes a mini-project to create a landscape plan for your home.

The *Hydrate Mesa* series will be held at the Mesa Main Library on Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

You'll learn how to hydrate your yard with rainwater, greywater and composting!

Join us for the first session on August 1 and you'll receive a **free rain gauge** so you can track the rainfall at your home. Each class will offer a special raffle prize including gardening books, nursery gift cards and more. Learn more and sign up on at www.watershedmg.org/hydrate.





Hydrate Mesa



Thursday evenings • August 1 – August 29, 2019 • 6:00-7:30pm



**August 1,
Hydrate Your
YARD**
Contour your landscape to
direct rainwater to your plants



**August 8,
Hydrate Your
PLANTS**
Create a beautiful landscape
with native plants and trees



**August 15,
Hydrate Your
FOOD**
Use rain tanks to support your
vegetable garden



**August 22,
Hydrate Your
SOILS**
Turn waste into resources and
build healthy soils



**August 29,
Hydrate With
GREYWATER**
Harvest greywater to complete
your backyard oasis

MESA MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Saguaro Room - 2nd Floor
64 E 1st St, Mesa, AZ 85201
Thursday evenings • 6:00-7:30pm
August 1 – August 29, 2019

Presented by: 

**Create a landscape
that makes the
most of your
rainwater!** 

**Go to watershedmg.org/hydrate
for more details and to RSVP.**

Learn to live Green